

MAR 08 2019

---

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

---

URGING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO COME TOGETHER AND PRIORITIZE THEIR HOMELESSNESS EFFORTS IN THE AREA SURROUNDING THE HAWAI'I CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER BY CONVENING A TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center is an  
2 educational facility where children and parents can learn by  
3 using their senses to explore, discover, imagine, and dream; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center, the first  
6 and only children's museum in the State, is located in downtown  
7 Honolulu and offers both indoor and outdoor educational  
8 programming for children; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center is also a  
11 major tourist attraction for many families visiting Hawai'i; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, learning while playing is a key to childhood  
14 development, and the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center allows  
15 its patrons to do so in a unique facility with four major  
16 galleries, each filled with hands-on, interactive exhibits; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center staff  
19 continues to work diligently to continue offering its programs,  
20 but must do so under unfavorable circumstances; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center, parents,  
23 and members of the community have raised concerns about the  
24 impact of the homeless encampments in the surrounding area; and



1 WHEREAS, health and safety concerns have been brought up  
2 about the outside and parking lot areas of the Hawai'i Children's  
3 Discovery Center, which are often unsanitary and require  
4 excessive maintenance; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the impact of the homeless encampments have  
7 included reports of violence, drug dealing, crime, and other  
8 illicit behavior that pose a safety concern for the children and  
9 families that enter and leave the Center every day; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, although the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center  
12 staff have operated over the years with empathy and a sense of  
13 aloha for individuals experiencing homelessness, the homeless  
14 encampments have become so detrimental to the Center and its  
15 patrons that it may force them to close down; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, although different community groups, including one  
18 comprised of homeless individuals who reside in the area, have  
19 attempted to move the homeless encampments away from the Hawai'i  
20 Children's Discovery Center, the homeless encampments still  
21 persist near and around the Center; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, although steps have been taken to address the  
24 issue, there has not been a unified approach, resulting in  
25 delayed progress, miscommunication, and tension among all  
26 parties involved; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center and various  
29 community groups have expressed their willingness to work  
30 together to address homeless issues; now, therefore,  
31

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
33 of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
34 Representatives concurring, that the Governor's Coordinator on  
35 Homelessness and the City and County of Honolulu are urged to  
36 come together and prioritize their homelessness efforts in the  
37 area surrounding the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center by  
38 convening a task force; and  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
41 Homelessness is requested to convene a task force consisting of



1 the Director of Public Safety, a member of the House of  
 2 Representatives, a member of the Senate, a member of the  
 3 Honolulu City Council, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office  
 4 of Housing, Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department,  
 5 Chair of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Children's  
 6 Discovery Center, and representatives of vested community  
 7 partners to work together to develop strategies and a plan that  
 8 will assist individuals and families facing homelessness around  
 9 the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center and outline the tasks and  
 10 responsibilities of each stakeholder; and  
 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will develop  
 13 strategies and a plan that will protect the Hawai'i Children's  
 14 Discovery Center and surrounding areas by preventing unsanitary  
 15 conditions, littering, vandalism, property damage, trespassing,  
 16 unlawful entry, and other criminal or illicit activity; and  
 17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
 19 Homelessness shall act as the Chairperson of the task force and  
 20 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
 21 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
 22 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
 23 of 2020; and  
 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
 27 Lieutenant Governor of Hawai'i, Governor's Coordinator on  
 28 Homelessness, Director of Public Safety, Mayor of the City and  
 29 County of Honolulu, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of  
 30 Housing, Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department, and  
 31 Chair of the Board of Directors and President of the Hawai'i  
 32 Children's Discovery Center.  
 33  
 34  
 35

OFFERED BY: 

  
  
  
  


